



## **REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP ON CULTURE AND DEVELOPMENT**

### **Quarterly Progress Report #13**

**Cooperative Agreement Number 263-A-00-10-00052-00**

**FHI 360**

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**Period of Reporting October 1 - December 31, 2013**

The Regional Partnership on Culture and Development (RPCD) was awarded as a cooperative agreement to FHI 360 on September 22, 2010.

The purpose of the Program is to “support the dissemination of regional research on development issues, share best practices and lessons learned from international development programs, and provide a forum for knowledge sharing and intellectual innovation.”

This is the thirteenth quarterly report of the program and covers the period from October 1 - December 31, 2013.

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Agreement Officer's Representative  
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## OVERVIEW

In its thirteenth and final full quarter, the Regional Partnership on Culture and Development (RPCD) completed building the independent structure of the Partnership Forum, now an independent network in the MENA region. The program also completed the implementation of most of its 11 grants and carried out a number of workshops and webinars.

In mid-December, members of the Partnership Forum Technical Committees and the Steering Committee gathered in Rabat, Morocco for a Leadership Summit. Committee members ratified the PF Charter and set a detailed Action Plan for the PF's first year of independent operations. RPCD also worked with the organization now hosting the PF, Forum Citoyenneté (FC) in Morocco, to set out the action plan, fundraising plan and roles for the first independent activities to be carried out next quarter.

RPCD successfully implemented four National Workshops on the subject of Sustainability and Fundraising, in Jordan, West Bank, Lebanon, and Morocco. In this quarter, RPCD worked extensively with the USAID Middle East Bureau to plan for the LGBT roundtable in Cyprus. The event is expected to gather around 15 researchers and experts from the MENA region in mid-January 2014. The goal of the event is to provide USAID's Middle East Bureau and OMEP with information that will support programming.

By the end of the quarter, RPCD received the final milestones of many of its grantees: all five Power of One grants with UNDP, one of the three main research grants, and all three grants resulting from the ACWUA event in January 2012.

The program completed its three main publications—the Annotated Bibliography Series, Research Highlights, and Technical Paper Series—in the last quarter. This quarter, the only publications were the monthly newsletters for October, November, and December, the latter being RPCD's final newsletter.

Finally, RPCD continued carrying out Research Requests for Missions in Morocco, Yemen, and Egypt.

## PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

Regional Program Director Matthew Pietz was evacuated from Cairo on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013, in compliance with the ordered departure announced by the State Department. Although the ordered departure was rescinded in early November 2013, USAID granted the request for him to be re-posted to Turkey and to continue managing RPCD remotely from this location until the end of the project. Mr. Pietz will return twice to Cairo in February for extended trips to manage closeout with Deputy Director Mariam Hanna.

Operations Associate Hanan Morgan was promoted to Operations Manager during the quarter. Ms. Morgan's expanded duties include events management, which she takes over from Events Manager Marwa El Attar, who left RPCD in November 2013 to pursue other opportunities. Ms. Morgan proved

her events management expertise by organizing logistics for the PF Leadership Summit in December, as well as for the upcoming Roundtable in Cyprus in January. The Operations Manager role includes managing closeout, a high priority in these final months of the program.

## **Closeout**

During the quarter, RPCD submitted a closeout plan to USAID and received approval from the AOR. The plan summarized the steps the program will take to complete closeout process in a timely manner while ensuring compliance with local tax and labor laws, USAID regulations, and FHI 360 policy.

In December 2013, RPCD began the process of office equipment and furniture disposition. After receiving USAID approval of its disposition plan, RPCD shared the detailed inventory of program items, including their condition and present value, with active and eligible PF members in Egypt. Those interested in receiving items were invited to apply and describe their need for the items requested. The request for applications was sent on December 9<sup>th</sup>, and only one organization responded by the deadline: Bibliotheca Alexandrina, which requested all items. This was approved by the AOR in December, and all items will be collected by the recipient on February 16, 2014.

As part of closeout, RPCD places a priority on preserving the technical outputs of the program and sharing its accomplishments as widely as possible. During the quarter, the team put together a Compendium of RPCD reports, studies and training materials. RPCD is also producing a short video to explain the program's achievements and to express PF member feedback on the support they received.

Christina Blumel, Program Coordinator, and Patricia Gomez, Financial Manager are expected to visit Cairo in late January to support the finance team in closeout.

During the quarter, Research Analysts and Research Liaison Officers were notified that their last day on the program is January 31, 2014. The rest of the team, those responsible for the closeout process, were notified that their last day is February 28, 2014.

## **PROGRAM ACTIVITIES**

### **Component A: Access available regional research**

#### **Partnership Forum**

Since the inception of the Partnership Forum, RPCD has been planning for its independent operation. In the October-December quarter, the program, working closely with PF members, took the last major steps toward this goal: the election of the Technical and Steering Committees, and the convening of the first meeting of the PF leadership (Host Organization, Steering and Technical Committees) to ratify the PF charter and approve a detailed action plan for the first year of independent operations. The outcomes of this Leadership Summit are described in the section Regional Conferences, under Component D, below.

In October, RPCD announced the winners of the election for Technical Committees, and held the election of the Steering Committee, consisting of six members of the TCs (along with a 7th member, a representative of Forum Citiyonette, the Host). The leaders of the PF are named in the following table. Red denotes the Steering Committee; yellow highlighting, Chairs of the Technical Committees.

Host Organization Representative and Chair of Steering Committee		
Khadija Ramram	Forum Citoyonnete	Morocco
Democracy and Governance Technical Committee		
Dima Karadsheh	Jordan Center for Social Research	Jordan
Ibtissam Mizberi	Centre de Democratie	Morocco
Aya Maraqa	Foundation for the Future	Jordan
Asmaa H. Al Ameen	Inmaa for Development	Iraq
Alaa Shaheen	Beit al Karma	Egypt
Youth Technical Committee		
Reem Ghattas	Arab World for Research & Development	Palestine
Amal El Kharouf	Center for Women's Studies	Jordan
Ahmed Allouche	Youth Without Borders	Tunisia
Ayoub Mostafa Ayoub	Qiyas for Polling & Survey Research	Palestine
Sherzad pir Mosa	Alind Organization for Youth Democratizing	Iraq
Natural Resource Management Technical Committee		
Abdel Nabi Fardous	WERSC	Jordan
Islam Ahmed Manahrassa	Beni Naim	Palestine
Hussein Aliw	Iraq Energy Institute	Iraq

Ayman El Rabi	Palestinian Hydrology Group	Palestine
Anis Salman	El Takreti Technical College of Management	Iraq

Other PF activities this quarter included four National Workshops on Sustainability and Fundraising in Jordan, West Bank, Lebanon and Morocco. Like the Leadership Summit, these activities are detailed under Component D.

### Specialist Database

This quarter RPCD concluded its work on the Specialist Database, which now has a total of 100 resumes of vetted MENA experts. The database will be transferred to PF Host organization FC in Morocco to manage. As before, the database will be viewable only by those with logins (available to PF members and USAID). The page is not accessible to the public, to protect the personal information contained in the resumes. Under FC's management, the database can continue to be a useful resource for those in search of MENA expertise, particularly for research tasks.

### Publications

In accordance with USAID's instructions for the RPCD no-cost extension (NCE), RPCD did not produce new issues of its main three publications during the NCE period (from September 23, 2013). However, to avoid flooding those on the RPCD mailing list with several publications in a short period of time, RPCD released the fifth volume of its Annotated Bibliography Series on October 2, 2013 and the sixth volume of its Technical Publication Series on October 31, 2013.

The following articles appeared in the publications disseminated this quarter:

#### ***Annotated Bibliography Series:***

<b>Title of Study</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Sector</b>	<b>Year</b>
Prospects for "Democratic Control of the Armed Forces"? Comparative Insights and Lessons for the Arab World in Transition	Regional	DG	2013
Political Participation and Democratic Transition in the Arab World	Regional	DG	2013
Towards a Social Network e-Government Agenda? Measuring Participation 2.0 in the Arab World	Regional	DG	2012
Democratization in the Middle East and North Africa:	Regional	DG	2013

Perspectives from Democracy Support			
Voting Patterns in Post-Mubarak Egypt	Egypt	DG	2013
Increasing Resilience to Climate Change in the Agricultural Sector of the Middle East: The Cases of Jordan and Lebanon	Jordan, Lebanon	NRM	2013
Water: Reason for Conflict or Catalyst for Peace? The Case of the Middle East	Regional	NRM	2013
Water Demand Management: The Mediterranean Experience	Regional	NRM	2012
Quantitative Appraisal of Biomass Resources and their Energy Potential in Egypt	Egypt	NRM	2013
Potential for Renewable Energy Jobs in the Middle East	Regional	NRM	2013
Barriers Hindering Jordanian Women's Advancement to Higher Political and Leadership Positions	Jordan	Youth	2012
Educating Youth for Entrepreneurship in Work and Life: Experience of a Junior Secondary School Project in Morocco	Morocco	Youth	2012
Improving the Quality of Basic Education for the Future Youth of Yemen Post Arab Spring	Yemen	Youth	2013
Sexual and Reproductive Health among Young People in Egypt: The Role and Contribution of Youth-Friendly Services	Egypt	Youth	2013
Political Activism of Palestinian Youth: Exploring Individual, Parental, and Ecological Factors	West Bank	Youth	2012

**Technical Publication Series:**

<b>Title of Study</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Sector</b>	<b>Year</b>
Youth, Action Sports and Political Agency in the Middle East: Lessons from a Grassroots Parkour Group in Gaza	West Bank	Youth	2013
Understanding the Arab Digital Generation	Regional	Youth	2012

e-Government in Arab Countries: A 6-Staged Roadmap to Develop the Public Sector	Regional	DG	2013
Internet Governance: The Quest for an Open Internet in the Middle East and North Africa	Regional	DG	2013
Building Knowledge Capacity for Sustainable Development in the Arab World	Regional	NRM	2013
Overview of Wind Energy and its Cost in the Middle East	Regional	NRM	2013

## Newsletter

RPCD issued three monthly newsletters in the quarter. In the October issue, the program announced the results of the Partnership Forum Technical Committee elections. It also featured three Research Highlights, as well as updates on the program's grant activities. In the November issue, the program announced the Partnership Forum Steering Committee election results, as well as three Research Highlights and a number of events in the region. The December newsletter, the final one produced by the program, enumerated and celebrated the achievements of RPCD.

## Component B: Conduct research, evaluations, and analysis

### Research Requests

Because this was the final full quarter for RPCD, the program did not accept new Research Requests. However, several requests progressed or were completed:

- **Gender and Conflict Assessments, Yemen:** During the reporting period, RPCD and its subcontractor Apex Consulting in Yemen completed one study ordered by the Mission there, and submitted and revised a second study.
  - RPCD sent the third and final version of the Conflict Assessment to USAID/Yemen on October 8<sup>th</sup>.
  - A draft report of the Gender Assessment was submitted on October 16<sup>th</sup>. The Mission responded on November 13<sup>th</sup>, requesting a significant number of changes. To make possible the revisions needed, subcontractor Apex Consulting engaged a team of consultants with deep experience writing USAID gender assessments, at no additional cost to FHI 360 or USAID. The revised version will be submitted in mid-January 2014.
- **Literacy Assessment, Morocco:** RPCD did not receive feedback during the quarter from USAID/Morocco regarding the second draft submitted on September 7, 2013. RPCD expects to receive comments early next quarter.

- **Research Needs in MENA Region:** In the reporting quarter, RPCD continued production of a study on think tanks in the MENA region, synthesizing the findings from desk research and interviews with PF members and experts. New data was also collected via a survey to all PF members on their needs and the challenges facing think tanks. The study will be finalized and professionally copyedited in January 2014.
- **Public Opinion and Awareness Survey in Egypt:** This activity is addressed under “Public Opinion/Polling Research” below.

## Research Grants

This quarter RPCD completed nine of the 11 grants in its portfolio, and brought the remaining two very close to completion. The grants achieved a wide range of results, from actionable research to empowering a new generation of youth leaders, as described in the updates below. In several cases, deliverable deadlines were extended, given unexpected issues with research activities due to weather and security issues. However, grantees and their partners did complete their research tasks as specified. Also, RPCD provided capacity building support to enable grantees to improve final deliverables, as part of their overall technical grant management.

Technical review, guidance and supervision of all research activities was carried out by RPCD staff in Cairo with support from Research Liaison Officers in Jordan, West Bank, Lebanon, Iraq and Morocco. Final reports submitted by grantees will be sent to an external copyeditor before dissemination.

## Main Grants

The largest and most ambitious grants in the RPCD portfolio, the main grants award funds of approximately \$150,000 each to three consortia composed of Partnership Forum members. Signed in July, the main grants carried out research in a majority of RPCD presence countries.

### **Grant Title: Impact of Population Growth and Climate Change in Lebanon and Egypt on Water Scarcity, Agricultural Output and Food Security**

**Lead Organization:** Columbia University Middle East Research Center (CUMERC), Jordan

**Start Date:** June 1, 2013

**End Date:** December 12, 2013

**Payment:** 78339.47 JOD paid, 27980.08 JOD remaining

**Progress:** In the July-September quarter CUMERC successfully completed its first three milestones, including an inception report, literature review and expert consultation. This quarter the case study documentation (Milestone 4) was due on October 31 followed by the final report (Milestone 5) due on November 15. Due to delays in obtaining approval from consortium member AUB’s Institutional Board of Review, needed for the fieldwork in Lebanon, the final deadline was extended to December 12. The case study documentation and final report were submitted to RPCD by this deadline and a dissemination webinar was held to share the research findings with USAID and other stakeholders in the region. However, payment for the final two milestones is still pending CUMERC’s responses to RPCD comments and questions on the submitted drafts. The final revised drafts will be finalized in the first

week of January 2014 and the remaining payments of 27980 JOD will be issued by mid-January.

**Grant Title: Developing a Simplified Decision Support System for Land and Water Management in the Central Jordan Valley to Enhance Food Security**

**Lead Organization:** Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem (ARIJ), West Bank

**Start Date:** June 1, 2013

**End Date:** January 15, 2014

**Payment:** 77,778 USD paid, 50,702 USD remaining

**Progress:** The first milestone for this grant was due September 30, 2013 but due to delays in fieldwork it was submitted on October 30, 2013. The milestone included an inception report, four workshop reports and the fieldwork results for the two case study sites. RPCD's technical review found the quality to be very high, but the submission was missing the literature review. ARIJ made the required additions resubmitted Milestone 1 by November 15, after which payment was issued. Milestone 2 included a soft copy of the Decision Support System—a computer-based system for helping farmers and other agriculture planners make optimal decisions on the use of land and resources—and an analysis report of the findings, and was due on November 30, 2013. After the submission of these items, extreme weather conditions in the West Bank caused difficulties in collecting data, which delayed final deliverables for Milestone 3. For this reason, an extension until January 15, 2014 was granted to ARIJ to submit the all remaining deliverables. The outstanding payments of 50,702 USD will be issued in January 2014.

**Grant Title: Role of Civil Society Organizations and the Private Sector in Filling Gaps in the Delivery of Services Not Provided by Government**

**Lead Organization:** AID-ME, Egypt

**Start Date:** June 1, 2013

**End Date:** November 30, 2013

**Payment:** 90,633.00 USD paid, 54,504.00 USD remaining

**Progress:** Two of the four milestones for this grant were completed in the previous quarter. Milestone 3, the final report, was submitted to RPCD during the quarter, and the lead partner was given technical feedback, which is now being addressed. The fourth and final Milestone included dissemination events in Egypt and Iraq, but the Iraq workshop was cancelled due to local political instability. The revised final report is expected in early January 2014. The remaining payments for Milestones Three and Four will be issued in January 2014 as soon as the final report and dissemination activity are completed.

## **UNDP Grants**

Five innovative grant ideas resulted from the Power of One event in Cyprus co-managed by RPCD and UNDP. These projects, which link actors in Eastern Europe and the MENA region, completed at the end of the reporting quarter, December 31, 2013. In addition to the updates below, a set of slides including photos of project activities and brief statements of outcomes are attached as Annex I of this report.

### **I. Media Buffer Zone**

Implemented by Partnership Forum members Near East Consulting in the West Bank and Qabila Media Productions in Egypt, in cooperation with the Cyprus Community Media Center and Why Not Organization in Bosnia, this project supported civil society organizations to produce and disseminate professional, innovative and cost effective media messages. It focused on media skills training and

capacity building, as well as connecting civil society organizations with media professionals to help support their role in sharing information and data about development in the region.

Start Date: 15 March 2013

End Date: 31 December 2013

Milestones:

1. Awareness raising of the aims, objectives and opportunities of the project by CSOs and media through communication and networking across Cyprus, MENA region and Europe
2. Needs assessment of media skills required from international CSOs and research institutions
3. Design and develop CSO Media Skills Training Kit to be implemented in training workshops
4. CSO Media Skills Training Kit training of trainers workshops in Egypt
5. Online virtual platform development for media professionals

**Progress:** The project team conducted a needs assessment and developed the training toolkit. The needs assessment questionnaire was sent out via email to all participants of the Power of One Conference by Near East Consulting, and the development of the training kit for Media Skills for researchers and CSOs was developed from the Needs Analysis with input from all partners.

The training kit was used in workshops in Egypt and Cyprus in late November and early December. Qabila set up the online virtual platform for media professionals at <http://www.mediabufferzone.org>. Finally, the project activities can be viewed on a dedicated Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/MediaBufferZoneProject>.

## **2. Ambassadors for Cross-Cultural Dialogue**

This project was a collaboration between PF member Forum Citoyenneté in Morocco; Youth Power, NGO Support Center and Kontea Heritage in Cyprus; and the Civic Resource Center in Romania. The project sought to enhance cross-cultural dialogue among youth to challenge stereotypes and reduce prejudice and xenophobia, by developing a trainers' manual on cross-cultural facilitation. Through facilitated workshops, youth engaged in discussions on conflict management and reconciliation and became trained as leaders in conflict resolution.

Start Date: 15 March 2013

End Date: 31 December 2013

Milestones:

1. Preparation of Trainer's Manual in Romania
2. Selection of 10 Core Ambassadors Group
3. 10 Ambassadors' training in Cyprus on cross-cultural facilitation
4. 10 local events organized by each Ambassador
5. Project reporting and evaluation

**Progress:** The project team met in Romania and developed the facilitators' manual. They also created the branding and visual identity of the project. The partners finalized the selection criteria for the ambassadors and selected 10 members to form the core group of ambassadors from the countries involved. The training on cross-cultural facilitation took place in July in Cyprus, but the Moroccan Ambassadors were unable to attend due to visa problems. Another training with the same trainers in

Cyprus, was organized in Morocco in December. Local events were organized by each Ambassador in Morocco and Cyprus. Activities are described on their Facebook account at: <https://www.facebook.com/Youth.Ambassadors.for.CrossCultural.Dialogue>.

### **3. i-100**

For this activity, the Egypt Foundation for Youth and Development worked with the Cyprus Family Planning Organization to promote youth volunteerism through an online portal. The portal maps the experiences of volunteers and highlights volunteering opportunities within civil society organizations across the MENA region and Cyprus.

Start date: The grant was signed March 15, 2013, but i-100 activities were delayed while the team members worked to obtain permission from government agencies in Egypt. Having obtained permission, i-100 redrafted the timeline for their activities and started June 15, 2013.

End Date: 31 December 2013

Milestones:

1. Recruitment of campaigners
2. Planning and organizing i-100 campaign
3. Placement of 6 volunteers for 100 hours
4. Development of website
5. Design and production of promotional materials
6. Media production on video and radio
7. Musical event

**Progress:** The project team created a website to run their campaign (<http://i-volunteer100.org>). The website contains the names of organizations in Cyprus and Egypt that are part of this volunteering initiative, and allows the placement of volunteers in both countries.

Volunteers from Egypt and Cyprus participated in an exchange in October. The Egyptian Foundation for Youth Development (EFYD) sent three volunteers 18 to 24 years old to participate in Cyprus. These Egyptian volunteers helped organize their host organizations' activities, such as a pop festival held in Nicosia. The Cyprus Family Planning Organization sent two volunteers 18 to 24 years old to Egypt in November.

Around 70 volunteers participated in the activities in Egypt, and a roundtable with CSOs about volunteer management was held in Egypt and Cyprus to engage CSOs in the campaign. Activities are listed on the project's Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/i-100-Become-A-Volunteer-TODAY/>.

### **4. Inter-regional Networking for Citizen Participation**

This project aimed at fostering citizen participation and transferring best practices across neighboring regions. It established innovative participatory models and set up an interregional network for the exchange of skills, knowledge and experience among NGOs and experts in the MENA region, Central and Eastern Europe, and Cyprus. It was implemented by PF members Foundation for the Future in Jordan and Kontea Heritage Foundation in Cyprus, Citizen Participation Forum and the Center for Non-

for Profit Law in Bulgaria, and Partners for Democratic Change in Slovakia.

Start Date: 15 March 2013

End Date: 31 December 2013

Milestones:

1. Situational analysis – collect data on existing policies, practices and regulations regarding local government and citizen participation in decision making
2. Conduct workshop on good governance and participation approaches
3. Training of local experts
4. Piloting of models in Cyprus and Tunisia
5. Evaluation of impact and recommendations for the future

**Progress:** The project team conducted a situational analysis of the status of local decision-making in Tunisia and Cyprus. The Municipality of Sousse, Tunisia was selected as the local authority partner there. Based on the results, a workshop on participatory decision making at the local level was held in Cyprus from July 22-26, 2013 with participants from Cyprus. Tunisian participants were unable to attend due to visa regulations. Another workshop was held for Tunisian participants by the same trainer in November. It included a discussion on the outcomes of the situation analysis; training on organizing participatory approaches for local governance; and development of a community forum.

### **5. Integrating Anthropology Perspectives into Peacebuilding**

To identify the main commonalities and convergences in approaches to peacebuilding, this project integrated anthropological research methods and academic partnerships across institutions in Europe, Cyprus and the Middle East. Implementing partners included the Management Centre of the Mediterranean (Cyprus); Sarenj Organization (Iraq); Europe Haz (Budapest); Kurdistan Human Rights Watch (Iraq); and the Centre of Human Rights, Reconciliation and Public Policy (Iraq). The Iraqi organizations are all PF members.

Start Date: 27 March 2013

End Date: 31 December 2013

Milestones:

1. Creating an online interregional peace platforms
2. Conducting in-depth interviews and focus groups with stakeholders
3. Production of a research paper
4. Creation of infographic
5. Organization of multi-sector workshops
6. Dissemination of research papers

**Progress:** The project team developed the inception report, as well as the research methodology. The RPCD research team reviewed all data collection tools, and conducted meetings with project team to discuss needed changes. Fieldwork began in August, but was interrupted in Erbil because of the security situation. However, it was quickly resumed and the research teams were able to submit their research paper on time. They created an infographic summarizing their findings.

## **ACWUA Grants**

Technical activities were completed for two of the three ACWUA grants this quarter. Only one grant still has minor activities remaining. Below is an update on each grant.

### **Grant Title: Community Based Water Resource Management for Water Cooperation Across a River Basin**

Lead Organization: House of Water and Environment, West Bank

Start Date: August 1, 2013

End Date: December 10, 2013

Payment: 5,000 USD paid; 54,504 USD remaining

Progress: In the July-September quarter, this grant required a modification in its budget and scope to eliminate the Morocco case study from the research, due to the unresponsiveness of the Moroccan partner. In October the modification was completed and signed by the grant lead. The second Milestone—including case studies for Egypt, Iraq and West Bank—was submitted on November 15 and then resubmitted on November 25 in response to RPCD's technical review. Because of delays encountered due to weather and obstacles in the case study research, a deadline extension for Milestones 3 and 4 to December 10, 2013 was requested and approved. All the remaining deliverables were submitted by the new deadline with very limited revisions requested by RPCD. A final dissemination webinar was held on December 22nd. RPCD is now processing all remaining payments for this grant.

### **Grant Title: Impact of Climate Change on Agricultural Cropping Patterns in the MENA Region**

Lead Organization: Center for Environment and Development in the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE), Egypt

Start Date: August 1, 2013

End Date: October 31, 2013

Payment: 29,540 USD paid (full amount)

Progress: Milestone 1 of this grant was completed last quarter. This quarter, Milestone 2 including a climate change scenario report and interim report were submitted and approved in early October with no changes. The final report was submitted on time by October 31, 2013; however RPCD requested extensive technical changes. A final draft was resubmitted by November 24, 2013 and accepted by RPCD. All payments for this grant have been issued and the grant completion form was signed by the lead organization.

### **Grant Title: Rehabilitating Water Distribution Systems as an Adaptation to Climate Change**

Lead Organization: Hashemite University, Jordan

Start Date: August 1, 2013

End Date: December 31, 2013

Payment: 21,999 USD paid; 3786.40 USD payment in progress; 3686.24 USD remaining

Progress: The first of four milestones for this grant was completed last quarter. There have been considerable delays in the implementation of this grant. The field work reports were originally due by September 30, 2013, but due to political instability in Yemen a project extension was requested. Accordingly, Milestone 2 (the fieldwork report) was due October 31, Milestone 3 (the final report) was due November 25, and Milestone 4 (the dissemination meetings) was due November 30. Milestone 2 was submitted on October 31, 2013 but RPCD discovered that extensive technical input and capacity building was needed to improve the quality of the fieldwork reports. After several discussions and revisions, the final field work reports were submitted to RPCD on November 30. At that point, a second deadline modification was needed for Milestones 3 and 4 and an extension until December 31, 2013 was approved by RPCD. The final report was submitted by December 24 and approved with payment now in progress. All that remains is Milestone 4, including the dissemination meeting reports which will be finalized in the first week of January 2014.

### **Research and Analytical Tools**

This activity takes place in response to USAID requests. During the quarter no tools of this nature were requested, although as seen above RPCD did carry out ongoing research requests.

### **Public Opinion/Polling Research**

After engaging subcontractor Nielsen for the second round of opinion poll research requested by USAID/Egypt, RPCD obtained permission from the local government's Central Agency for Public Mobilization Statistics (CAPMAS) on September 19 to proceed with the study. The RPCD team met on September 16 with the Nielsen research team to go over their scope of work and emphasize lessons learned from the first round of research.

After the questionnaire was translated, trainings for survey enumerators were held in Cairo, Alexandria and the Delta in late September. Because of security concerns, the trainings in Upper Egypt were postponed until just prior to fieldwork. The piloting of the survey instrument was also held in Cairo. RPCD finalized the questionnaire according to the results of the pilot and the fieldwork took place in October and late November. The analysis and writing of the draft report took place in November. A first draft was sent to USAID in December, the final report is expected to be finalized early January 2014.

## **Component C: Document USAID Lessons Learned and Best Practices**

### **TIPs (What Works)**

The second issue of What Works is currently under development. In this What Works, RPCD shares tips to maximize the effectiveness of using ICT tools in development, and presents a number of brief success stories.

## **Component D: Disseminate information to encourage sharing and use of knowledge**

## Portal

During the reporting quarter, the program uploaded seven articles to the Digital Library collection. The Digital Library now contains 500 articles in RPCD's three subject areas. The program also added all recorded Webinars to the dedicated page on the RPCD site.

Also in this quarter, RPCD began transferring the portal created by the program to the host organization of the PF, Forum Citoyenneté (FC). From December 12 to December 15, RPCD IT Manager Mohamed Abdel Gawad worked closely with the IT Manager from FC in Casablanca, Morocco. The main purpose of this meeting was to train FC to manage the PF website. In addition to the technical assistance, RPCD gave FC a guide to portal management that included snapshots of portal pages and an explanation of the software tools needed.

In the following quarter, RPCD will transfer the relevant content of the portal pages to FC to manage. USAID and FHI 360 branding will be removed, as will pages relating to RPCD activities outside of the PF. Going forward, the site will be an important tool in communications and fundraising for the PF.

## Webinars

Two webinars were held during the reporting period, to share results from RPCD grants.

On November 13, the team that implemented the research grant entitled "The Impact of Population Growth and Climate Change in Lebanon and Egypt on Water Scarcity, Agricultural Output and Food Security" presented its findings.

The webinar explored the complex and dynamic relationship between water, food security, climate change and demographic trends in Lebanon and Egypt. Conclusions and recommendations were drawn from the two case study countries, with extrapolations for the MENA region. The research was implemented by the Columbia University Middle East Research Center in collaboration with the American University in Cairo and the American University in Beirut. Participants shared their insights, identifying recommendations to policy makers and development practitioners in the region.

On December 20, the research team from the House of Water and Environment, one of the ACWUA grants, presented the results of their research: "Community-Based Water Resource Management for Water Cooperation across a River Basin". This project aimed to strengthen water and land use management capacity among MENA countries through the adoption of the Human Integrated Management Approach (HIMA) to conservation. As presented in the webinar, the study suggested adopting the HIMA concept to introduce participating communities to a range of issues relating to climate change resilience.

RPCD will conduct further webinars next quarter to finish disseminating the results of the grants program.

## Regional Conferences

### Roundtable on Understanding Marginalized Populations in MENA

In June 2013, RPCD received a request from the USAID Middle East Bureau (MEB) to conduct a study on the status of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community in the Middle East. Later it was agreed that a roundtable with experts would be more effective than a centrally-controlled study in limited locations, and RPCD began to plan this event. The purpose of the event is to provide information that will support future USAID decisions about any activities in this area.

In this quarter, RPCD worked closely with OMEP and MEB to prepare for the event, which will gather about 15 experts working on LGBT issues in the MENA region. The participant pool will reflect research, activist, and donor communities for a well-rounded set of conversations and recommendations.

The Roundtable will be held January 12-14, 2014. Due to the sensitivity of the topic, it was decided to hold the event outside the Middle East region, in Cyprus. RPCD is in contact with USAID/Cyprus to coordinate the logistics of the roundtable.

The Roundtable sessions will consist of a series of open discussions around the points outlined below. RPCD will also recruit a facilitator to co-moderate the sessions together with RPCD Director. Case studies from the MENA region will also be presented during the event.

Key topics:

- (a) Discussion of attitudes, within in a cultural context, toward LGBT persons in the region, based as much as possible on research and data.
- (b) Discussion of the prevalence and forms of discrimination and violence experienced by LGBT persons in the region.
- (c) Overview of the status of laws, policies, regulations, Actions Plans, Strategies and other vehicles for protecting the basic human rights of LGBT persons or criminalizing them, and information about whether these are implemented and enforced.
- (d) Discussion of the prevalence and capacity of CSOs that address LGBT issues in the Middle East.
- (e) Concrete recommendations as to how Missions could design activities to overcome the challenges faced by LGBT persons and to increase their participation in USAID programming. This should also include a discussion of the challenges that may arise in designing this type of programming, the real and perceived risks linked to participating in such programming, the potential unintended negative consequences of this programming and suggestions as to how such consequences could be avoided.

After the event and based on the discussions, RPCD will produce a report containing concrete recommendations that are specific to the MENA context. The report will also include the outcomes from each session and will be shared with USAID.

### PF Leadership Summit

RPCD held the Partnership Forum Leadership Summit in Rabat, Morocco, on the 11th-13th of

December 2013. The event was held at the Centre des Rencontres et des Formations of the Ministry of Education, Rabat, Morocco, which generously donated meeting space for the three days of the Summit. The Agenda is attached as Annex 2.

Thirteen of the fifteen elected Technical Committee members (six of whom are Steering Committee members) from Morocco, Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia, Lebanon, Iraq and the West Bank attended the conference, in addition to Khadija Ramram, who serves as the representative of host organization FC, and is also Chair of the Steering Committee. The sessions were moderated by Ms. Ramram, RPCD Director Matthew Pietz, and RPCD Deputy Director Mariam Hanna. Two staff from FHI 360 headquarters in Washington attended as well: John Zoltner, Director of Tech Lab, and Christina Blumel, Program Coordinator for RPCD.

The main goals of the Leadership Summit were to build on the foundation laid by all PF members during the PF launch in Jordan in May 2013. The summit gathered the elected decision-makers for the Forum—the host organization and the members of the Technical and Steering Committees—to ratify the decisions taken in May and to plan the next steps for the PF.

On the first session of the summit, Matthew Pietz presented the roles of committees' members, and discussed with attendees the expected responsibilities by each member. At the end of this session the participants elected chairs for each technical committee.

The sessions of the Summit were structured to allow interaction among Committees' members to read through the guiding documents, propose changes for discussions, and voting for final changes to be made according to the discussions. The greatest share of discussion centered over the Charter, which was collaboratively edited and approved through a series of intense but productive deliberations. The participants also divided into groups to design timelines for the planned PF activities over the next two years, and to ensure they match budget projections. Fundraising was discussed in detail as well, and it was agreed that the host organization and Steering Committee bear the greatest responsibility for this task.

By the end of the event, the participants achieved the following:

1. An agreed upon charter
2. An action plan for the first two years of independent PF operations
3. An annual budget to run the network activities
4. A draft for the fundraising plan
5. A draft for a code of ethics to be followed by members

On the last day of the event, Mr. Zoltner gave a presentation on using Social Media & IT to run a Knowledge-Sharing Network. This provided some low-cost and useful tools and effective strategies for the network to market its work and to share information.

## National Workshops

RPCD concluded its series of National Workshops during the quarter, with four workshops on Sustainability and Fundraising that focused on how to write effective research proposals and how to network successfully. National Workshops were conducted in the West Bank, Jordan, Lebanon and

Morocco.

The workshops were led by RPCD Director, Deputy Regional Director, and Research Liaison Officers in each country. PF Chair Khadija Ramram led the NW in Morocco. The content of the workshops began with extensive, detailed guidance on pitfalls to avoid and successful strategies to employ when writing research grant applications. Exercises custom-designed for the PF audience helped participants practice what they learned. The second segment of the workshops highlighted the necessity of forecasting business opportunities and making bidding decisions, followed by extensive discussion of networking techniques to build relationships that can lead to funding. The workshops culminated in an in-depth exercise where participants designed a research proposal in response to real-life, currently open calls for proposals, and then critiqued each other using the actual scoring criteria.

After the training modules were finished, the RLOs in each country led a discussion on establishing national-level PF hubs. It was left to the PF members in attendance whether they wanted to continue to meet, as PF members, at the national level after the closure of RPCD. Unanimously they decided that they did. After this was established, goals for each national-level hub were agreed upon, and the people responsible for convening the next meeting were selected. This step is a critical part of ensuring sustainability of the PF on the ground, and RPCD was encouraged to see the enthusiasm participants had for the usefulness of PF to date and their willingness to give their own time to push it forward.

Workshops were held on the premises of PF members, providing cost savings to RPCD and once again showing participant buy-in, through their willingness to give space free of charge.

Because the same module was used in all four cases, the sections below note any variations in the workshops.

### **West Bank, October 23-24, 2013**

Held in Ramallah, the 2-day workshop gathered 19 PF members. Matthew Pietz, RPCD Director, was the lead trainer. The second part of the workshop was led by Research Liaison Officer Dr. Bader El Araj, who facilitated the discussion of the activities that will be held by the national-level information sharing hub in West Bank. Mr. Ayoub Ayoub, Director of Qiyas Institution, was elected by the members to coordinate future activities, and they agreed to hold their first independent meeting in early January 2014.

### **Jordan, October 27-28, 2013**

The workshop in Jordan was led by Mariam Hanna, RPCD Deputy Director, and Mr. Ahmed Al Hamid, Director of AID-ME, a PF Member. The workshop was hosted by the Foundation for the Future, also a PF member, and gathered 13 PF members as participants.

Following the exercise which used a current RFP to train participants in proposal writing, several organizations planned to collaborate with each other to submit proposals to the RFP after the training.

Ms. Aida Essaid, Director of the Information and Research Center, was selected to coordinate PF

meetings in Jordan. The participants agreed to hold their first meeting early January at the Jordan Center for Social Research and Studies. The content of the meeting was also decided: it will allow members to exchange best practices on applying Monitoring and Evaluation tools in development.

### **Lebanon, November 21, 2013**

Held on November 21 at the American University of Science and Technology (AUST), the training gathered 22 representatives from research centers and NGOs from Lebanon.

The training was led by Ms. Hanna, and the session on creating a national-level hub was led by RPCD Research Liaison Officer Ms. Dayana El Baba. The members agreed to have Mr. Jad Ashkar from Khota El Shabab and Ms. Lara Maddah from Nahnoo coordinate for future activities, and they agreed to hold their first independent meeting in early January 2014 at Nahnoo offices in Beirut. Members will discuss ideas on youth capacity building and discuss writing joint research and project proposals at the planned meeting.

### **Morocco, December 9-10, 2013**

The Morocco workshop was held December 9-10, 2013 at the National Council for Human Rights in Rabat. Co-hosted by FC, the host of the PF, the workshop gathered a total of 12 representatives from PF member organizations.

Khadija Ramram led the entire workshop, including the establishment of the local hub, which will meet in January to discuss how PF members in Morocco can write joint applications for funding. The coordinator will be Ytto Biyad from FC. As in other workshops, there was significant interest among participants to apply for the RFP used in the main exercise.

On the second day of the workshop, John Zoltner, Director of Tech Lab at FHI360, gave a presentation on the use of social media to build a web reputation, which in turn can help win funding. The presentation also presented best practices in disseminating research studies online, and focused on practical tactics for using social media more effectively.

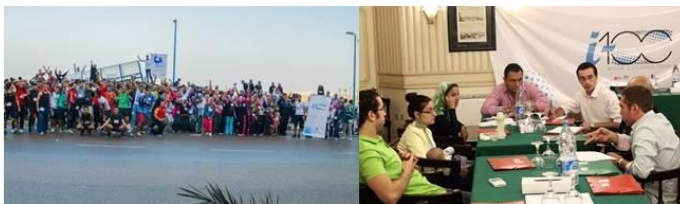
## **ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER**

In the final working period of RPCD, January-February 2014, the program will bring all technical, operational and financial activities to a close. January should see the cessation of programmatic activities, and February will be the last month of the program. Tasks include:

- Publication of the second issue of What Works series
- Implementing two Webinars to present the results of two of the main grants.
- Implementing a Roundtable on LGBT issues in the MENA region
- Finalizing Egypt Opinion Poll, Yemen Gender Assessment, Morocco Literacy Study, and MENA Think Tanks Study

- Completion of closeout plan

## Annex 1: UNDP Grants Results



- ✓ Planned and organized i-100 campaign
- ✓ Designed and produced promotional materials
- ✓ Around 70 volunteers engaged in Egypt
- ✓ Developed website (<http://i-volunteer100.org/>)
- ✓ Egyptian-Cypriot volunteers exchange
- ✓ Round table with CSOs about volunteer management in Egypt
- ✓ Media production on video and radio
- ✓ Held musical event



- ✓ Developed Trainers Manual
- ✓ Selected 10 Core Ambassadors
- ✓ Ambassadors' trainings held in Cyprus & Morocco on cross-cultural facilitation
- ✓ Local events organized by each Ambassador on varying issues





## MEDIA BUFFER ZONE PROJECT



- ✓ Conducted needs assessment of media skills for CSOs
- ✓ Developed CSO Media Skills Training Kit
- ✓ CSO Media Skills Training Kit TOT workshops in Cyprus and Egypt
- ✓ Online virtual platform development for media professionals ([www.mediabufferzone.org](http://www.mediabufferzone.org))



## INTEGRATING ANTHROPOLOGY PERSPECTIVES INTO PEACE BUILDING

- ✓ Conducted in-depth interviews and focus groups with stakeholders
- ✓ Produced research paper
- ✓ Created infographic
- ✓ Disseminating research papers



## INTERREGIONAL NETWORKING FOR CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

- ✓ Conducted situational analysis in Sousse, Tunisia
- ✓ Trained local experts in Cyprus and Tunisia
- ✓ Conducted workshops on good governance and participation approaches in Cyprus and Tunisia
- ✓ Impact evaluation and recommendations for the future



## Annex 2: PF Leadership Summit Agenda

December 11-13, 2013

<b>DAY ONE</b> <b>Wednesday, December 11, 2013</b>		
9:00 – 9:15 am	Registration	
9:15 – 9:25 am	Introductions and Welcome	Abdelali Mastour, FC
9:25 – 9:35 am	Framing Remarks	Matthew Pietz, RPCD
9:35 – 9:45 am	Objectives <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Understand TC &amp; SC roles</li> <li>2. Amend and approve Charter</li> <li>3. Create Action Plan</li> <li>4. Create Budget</li> </ol>	Khadija Ramram & Abdelali Mastour, FC
9:45 – 10:30 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion of Technical Committee and Steering Committee roles and responsibilities.</li> <li>• New officers Roles</li> </ul>	Mariam Hanna, RPCD
10:30 – 10:45 am	Election of TC Chairs	Khadija Ramram, FC
10:45 – 11:15 am	Coffee Break	
11:15 – 12:00	Elections of new officers	Khadija Ramram, FC
12:00 am -1:00 pm	Reading through Charter and marking passages for Discussion. Prioritizing passages for discussion	Khadija Ramram, FC
1:00 – 2:00 pm	Lunch	
2:00 – 4:00 pm	Discussion of Charter	Khadija Ramram, FC
4:00 – 4:30 pm	Coffee Break	
4:30 – 5:30 pm	Discussion of Charter	Khadija Ramram, FC

<b>DAY TWO</b> <b>Thursday, December 12 , 2013</b>		
9:00 – 9:15 am	Recap of accomplishments and decisions of Day I	Matthew Pietz
9:15 – 10:45 am	Discussion of Code of Conduct	Khadija Ramram, FC
10:45 – 11:15 am	Coffee Break	
11:15 – 12:15 pm	Approve Charter	Khadija Ramram, FC
12:15 – 1:30 pm	Lunch	
1:30 – 2:00 pm	Action Planning: Review of 2013-2015 Action Plan	Khadija Ramram FC
2:00 – 3:30	Discussion on Action Plans – each TC plans activities (roles and responsibilities)	Khadija Ramram, FC
3:30 – 4:00 pm	Coffee Break	
4:00 – 5:00 pm	TCs present Action Plans; group discussion and approval of action plan	Khadija Ramram, FC

<b>DAY THREE</b> <b>Friday, December 15, 2013</b>		
9:00 – 9:15 am	Recap of accomplishments and decisions of Day 1 and 2	Matthew Pietz, RPCD
9:15 – 10:30 am	Using Social Media & IT to Run a Knowledge-Sharing Network	John Zoltner, RPCD
10:30 – 11:00 pm	Coffee Break	
11:00 – 11:30 pm	Approval of Action plan by Steering Committee Assigning of roles and responsibilities	Khadija Ramram, FC
11:30 – 12:30	Setting 2013-2015 budget, based on activity plan	Khadija Ramram, FC
12:30 – 1:30 pm	Lunch	
1:30 – 2:30 pm	Fundraising strategy – how to raise the funds needed for 2013-2015 Action Plan	Khadija Ramram, FC
2:30 – 3:00 pm	Coffee Break	
3:00 – 4:30 pm	Fundraising plan, roles and responsibilities	Khadija Ramram, FC
4:30 – 5:00 pm	Closing Session & Next Steps	Abdelali Mastour and Khadija Ramram, FC